Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Wednesday 22 Dec 2021 until 23:59 on Thursday 23 Dec 2021

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 22 Dec 2021 at 02:55

Confidence: High for Wednesday but confidence lowering from Thursday and more especially Friday due to uncertainties in the position of weather fronts over the United Kingdom.

Headline for Wednesday 22 Dec 2021: Dry start, outbreaks of rain or sleet arriving late morning. Feeling cold.

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 22 Dec 2021

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy Snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales No Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Medium Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Medium Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Cloudy	Cloudy	Light rain	Dull	Heavy Rain	Drizzle
Precipitation probability					
<05%	20%	60%	30%	90%	40%

Forecast for Wednesday 22 Dec 2021

Weather: A dry start with high cloud thickening. Outbreaks of mostly light rain will spread northeast from late morning with perhaps some sleet for a time. The rain will become heavier at times after dusk.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 90% for most of the day, becoming 20% after dark as low cloud spreads in.

Visibility: Generally good during daytime. Reducing to a few kilometres at times in the afternoon rain with some cloud lowering onto the high summits. The cloud will become more extensive down to 200 or 300m after dark.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/mountain-forecast
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Wednesday 22 Dec 2021

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	26/32 SE	25/31 SE	22/28 S	34/42 SE	28/35 S	25/32 S	26/32 S
600	27/34 S	24/31 S	18/26 S	30/41 SE	24/32 S	22/29 S	21/29 S
300	12/26 S	10/25 S	6/19 S	7/25 S	8/24 S	7/21 S	5/18 S
Valley	5/22 SE	5/19 SE	3/14 E	3/18 SE	3/17 SE	3/15 SE	3/13 SE

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	9/4	7/2	4/-2	4/-2	3/-4	3/-4	3/-3
600	6/1	5/-0	3/-2	4/-2	3/-3	3/-2	4/-2
300	2/-2	2/-2	3/0	4/1	3/-1	3/-0	4/2
Valley	2/-0	2/0	3/1	4/3	4/2	4/2	5/4
Freezing Level*	400m	500m	1000m	1900m	2000m	2000m	1900m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

A cold day with a marked wind chill. Some icy surface are possible.

Forecast for Thursday 23 Dec 2021

Weather: Cloudy and misty with outbreaks of mainly light rain or drizzle. A band of heavier rain will move northeast across all parts late afternoon or early evening then dry and clearer conditions following. Milder conditions than of late.

Maximum wind: South or Southeast 20mph gusts 30mph.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 10%.

Visibility: Difficult navigation conditions. Very poor at most levels with areas of fog above 300 or 400m, occasionally down to lower slopes. Generally hazy below the cloud base.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 5C rising to 9 or 10C.
At 800m: Plus 4 or 5C.
Freezing level: Above summits.

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Ground Conditions Supplement
Date: Tuesday 21 December
Location: Helvellyn summit at 00:45

Temperature: minus 4.1 C
Maximum wind speed 11.6mph
Wind chill: minus 11.3 C
Average wind speed: 10.2mph

Full report:
Ground conditions were similar to Monday, albeit with dryer paths and rocks underfoot but with no thaw of the remaining snow. The remaining patches of snow are generally, but not exclusively, to be found in sheltered spots and hollows and on east and north facing aspects above 750m. All such snow encountered today was hard and icy. Owing to its location and height and combined with a summit temperature around midday of minus 4 degrees, the snowpack was neither thawing nor softening and as such must be avoided when on steep ground – unless you are carrying crampons and ice axes. This is especially the case on Helvellyn's east face. It is a long way down should you venture onto it and slip or the snow gives way. Having stated all this, the vast majority of Lakeland paths can now be followed without setting foot on snow with most of the Lakeland fells now being free from snow up to and including summit level. Many paths were dry; however there were occasional patches of thin ice on paths and rocks which were so intermittent that they can catch you out if not concentrating on foot placement! This is obviously more of concern when on exposed terrain. Swirral Edge can now be climbed without setting foot on snow, whereas there are only a few unavoidable steps on snow on the path at the very top of Striding Edge – but they are not on steep ground (unless you have taken the wrong route in which case crampons and an ice axe will be required). However, even this small patch of snow can be avoided by venturing slightly to the south.

With the ground well frozen at altitude and Wednesday's forecast predicting rain & snow at altitude, walkers out on Wednesday should expect to encounter more ice and snow than experienced and described here.

With a summit temperature and windchill well below freezing full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment including torch, map and compass (and the ability to use them) are all essential for anyone going out onto the high fells.
Issued at: 02:55 on Wed 22 Dec 2021

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